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Identical letters dated 12 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

Increasing quantities of weapons have been provided directly to extremist terrorists of the Nusrah Front, who have been spreading terrorism in Syria, shedding Syrian blood, targeting the State apparatus and destroying infrastructure and public and private property. Drawing on an extremist *takfirist* ideology, they seek to thwart the comprehensive national dialogue that the Syrian leadership and Government are working to promote, which is the only solution to the crisis. The Syrian Government has sent you numerous letters detailing those practices, which fall under the definition of aggression contained in General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX). In particular, our letter of 6 March 2013 (A/67/873-S/2013/137) described the destabilizing role of the Turkish Government.

It is worth noting that the foreign-backed violence perpetrated by the armed terrorist groups has escalated in proportion to the progress made towards a political solution. While my country's Government has been working intensively to create the conditions and provide guarantees for national dialogue among Syrians, the pronouncements of United States officials have grown more strident, and the European Union and League of Arab States have called openly for the armed terrorist groups to receive greater military and logistical support. The groups' daily and systematic destruction of Syrian State facilities, using European weapons, is perhaps the clearest sign they are receiving weapons from those same States that maintain an arms embargo on Syria. Similarly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Saud Al-Faisal, stated last week that his country would continue to arm the terrorist groups in Syria. The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, speaking before his country's Parliament, has referred to the training of armed men in Syria. The European Union has decided to sell, provide, transfer or export "non-lethal military equipment" to Syria, in another clear sign of its vaguely worded

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support for terrorists. Speaking in Saudi Arabia, the Secretary of State of the United States of America said that his country supported the transfer of weapons to "moderate groups", raising genuine questions about his country's commitment to a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis and to combating terrorism, including the Nusrah Front, which it has defined as a branch of the terrorist organization Al-Qaida. At the same time, the European and international media have reported growing evidence that such countries as Saudi Arabia and Qatar are conveying to the terrorist groups consignments of weapons received from such States as Belgium, Croatia, Switzerland and the Ukraine; that Turkey has been sheltering and training terrorists and facilitating arms transfers into Syria; and that the European Union countries and the United States of America have allocated millions of dollars to military support, training and political cover for the groups. In yet another example, the League of Arab States adopted a resolution at the end of its meeting of 6 March 2013 that contravenes international law and the Charter of the United Nations to an unprecedented degree by enshrining "the right of all States, to the extent that they wish, to provide all forms of self-defence, including military support, to bolster the Syrian people and the Free Army".

Those practices, and the decisions taken by the regional organizations, point to a flagrant intervention in internal Syrian affairs and a blatant violation of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the role of regional organizations under the Charter. They clearly and overtly contravene the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly, in particular Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the insistence of certain Arab and Western States on supporting terrorism, which is responsible for the extensive destruction in Syria and the shedding of Syrian blood, will have grave repercussions. That situation calls into question their claim to support a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria. An end to the violence of the armed terrorist groups is essential for the success of the national dialogue. The violence can be ended only by cutting off the terrorists' lifeline by putting pressure on the States that support terrorism in Syria, whether directly or through such misleading terms as "non-lethal military equipment", in pursuance of American plans inconsistent with any claim to support a political solution to the crisis. The Syrian Arabic Republic hopes that the Council will play an effective role in order to preserve the credibility of the international community in combating terrorism, ensure respect for its binding resolutions and enforce the Organization's commitment to support efforts to resolve the crisis through political means and national Syrian-led dialogue among Syrians.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the
Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations